



DOCKET NO. END920010002US1

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J. Steptoe  
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TC 2800 MAIL ROOM

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ray et al.

Examiner: Nguyen, H.

Serial No.: 09/779,812

Art Unit: 2812

Filed: 2/8/01

For: LEAD-FREE SOLDER STRUCTURE AND METHOD FOR HIGH FATIGUE LIFE

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington D.C. 20231

Response to Restriction Requirement

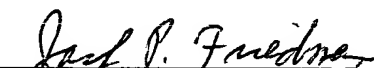
Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated October 10, 2001, Applicant's hereby provisionally elect Group II claims 20-30 drawn to an electronic structure, classified in class 257, subclass 772. This election is made with traverse, and Applicant's hereby reserve the right to file a divisional application in connection with unelected claims 1-19, drawn to a process of forming an electronic structure.

With regard to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant's respectfully submit that the subject matter of all claims 1-30 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, Applicant's respectfully submit that the search and the examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP § 803, in which it is stated that "if the search and

examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits" (emphasis added). Applicant's respectfully submit that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Should the Examiner require or request anything further from Applicants prior to examination, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below. Otherwise, Applicant's request early and favorable examination on the merits.

  
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Jack P. Friedman  
Reg. No. 44,688

Dated: October 17, 2001

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